



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE - Governor
KARL B. KURTZ - Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
450 W. State Street, 10th Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036
PHONE 208-334-5500
FAX 208-334-6558

February 18, 2004

Ms. Angela Corbin
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd.
Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. Corbin:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the two enclosed documents, which will implement new health coverage options in Idaho, when approved. The first document, the Title XXI State Plan Amendment, implements a Separate Children's Health Insurance Program called CHIP B. This direct services health plan will cover children in families with incomes that fall between 150% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

Also enclosed is a Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) Waiver proposal to implement a premium assistance program called the Access Card. The Access Card will allow Idaho families, with SCHIP eligible children, to choose between direct benefits coverage from the State or premium assistance for purchasing private insurance coverage for their children. The Access Card will also be offered to adults employed by small businesses throughout the state. The Access Card premium assistance will be used toward the purchase of basic primary care health coverage from participating insurance carriers in Idaho's private sector.

We look forward to working with you to expedite approval of these documents. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Robin Pewtress at (208) 364-1892 or via e-mail at pewtresr@state.id.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

KARL B. KURTZ
Director

KBK/rp
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c: Liz Trias, CMS, Region X, Seattle
Janice Adams, CMS, Region X, Seattle
David Rogers